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MEMORIAL.

*A Testimony of Birmingham Monthly Meeting
of Friends, concerning our late beloved
friend, JANE GIBBONS.*

Of this dear Friend it may truly be said :
she was " an example to the believers, in word,
in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith,
in purity."

She was the daughter of William and Hannah Gibbons, and was born in Lampeter, Lancaster County, Pa., on the 25th of Sixth month, 1804.

Through the power of Divine Grace, and the watchful care of religiously concerned parents, she was brought to yield in early life to the restraints of the cross of Christ, by which she was preserved from many temptations and enabled to adorn the doctrine of God, her Saviour, from youth to old age.

In the year 1832, she was deprived by death of her beloved father, and became the devoted companion and caretaker of her valued mother,

till the decease of the latter in the 98th year of her age. In the year 1841, she and her mother removed, to reside for a time, with a married sister, within the limits of Darby Monthly Meeting; and in 1848 they removed to West Chester and became members of this Monthly Meeting; by which, in 1866, Jane Gibbons was appointed an elder.

She was the frequent companion of her dear mother, when, under religious concern, she was called to attend meetings within her own Yearly Meeting, and accompanied her once to Ohio Yearly Meeting, and again to some of the meetings composing it.

Faithful to the teachings of the Holy Spirit, she was led into great humility and meekness. She was given to hospitality, and was kind and generous to those who were in need; frequently bestowing a gift in secret, and thus obeying the injunction: "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."

She was a woman of superior judgment, a wise counsellor, and, her intellectual abilities having been sanctified and made meet for the Master's use, she was truly valuable in the church, filling important stations therein; endeavoring to perform the duties connected

with these, with an eye single to the blessed Head thereof. Her discernment, and the tenderness of her spirit, qualified her rightly to discharge the duties of an elder, entering into sympathy with ministers in their exercises, and watchful to hand to these, as she felt drawn to do so, a word of encouragement.

She retained her interest in the affairs of the church and was a valuable helper to those engaged therein, after she was prevented from assembling with her friends in religious meetings.

Our dear friend was conscientiously attached to the doctrines and testimonies of our own religious Society, yet her intercourse with others was marked by charity and christian courtesy, entering warmly into sympathy with those who were, from any cause, in affliction or trial; and was greatly beloved by all classes. Her mind and memory retained their usual brightness to near the close of her long life, and her company was sought and enjoyed by both old and young. In the latter class, her loving interest was thus expressed: "I often feel sympathy for our dear young Friends, in this day of many voices; and though discouragements from within and without may at times

prevail, I trust a remnant will be preserved, to whom our doctrines and testimonies will be precious."

Her decline was gradual. She had been confined to her chamber for more than a year, but the patience and resignation which she manifested under suffering and privation, the sweetness of her spirit, and the sense of the presence of the dear Saviour which surrounded her, caused many to feel it a privilege to sit by her side ; although, in her humility, she was very distrustful of her own attainments, and would frequently repeat the language of the Psalmist : " Cast me not off in the time of old age, forsake me not when my strength faileth ;" and at other times : " The prayer of the poor publican is often mine." Thus manifesting that all her dependence was in the mercy of God, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

During her last illness, she frequently repeated texts of Holy Scripture and portions of religious poetry, as she felt that they described her feelings ; and within a few days of her close she expressed that she felt quiet and peaceful, adding : " I think I may say I feel the streams of refreshing from the living Fountain."

A short time before she passed into the long

sleep preceding the close, feeling very weak, she said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Quietly and peacefully she passed away, on the 29th of Seventh month, 1897, in the 94th year of her age. For her we may reverently believe that the warfare is accomplished, the victory won, the cross laid down, and the crown immortal received ; the sufferings of the frail tabernacle exchanged for the joy and peace of the heavenly home ; and the conflicts and exercises of the church militant, for the peace and glory of the church triumphant.













